THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the scheme for setting up of Handlooms Development Centre (HDC) and Quality Dyeing Unit (QDU), the Government provides central assistance of Rs. 10.00 lakhs and Rs. 4.265 lakhs for each HDC and QDU respectively.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) On the basis of proposals received from the State Government of Gujarat, 6 HDCs have been sanctioned for assistance since 1994-95. District-wise details of number of HDCs and QDUs set up during the last 3 years are as under:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	District	Number HDC Sanctioned	Number QDU Sanctioned	Amount Released	Remarks
1994-95	Amreli	1	—	4.21	
	Dang	1	—	1.60	
	Badoli	1	—	2.88	
	Bhasaria	1	—	4.15	
	Kutch	1	—	3.52	
	Basaskantha	1	—	4.06	
1995-96	—	—	—	8.25	Towards setting up of Sales Centre and Procurement of Yarn Dyes and chemicals for the 6 HDCs sanctioned during the previous years.
	Total	6	—	28.67	

Non Issuance of Telephone Connections to Applicants at Fatehpur, Dumka Subb-Division in Bihar

3152. SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some people had deposited Rs. 2000/- each in April 1994 for new telephone connections at the proposed New Telephone Exchange at Fatehpur under Dumka Sub-Division in Bihar;

(b) if so, whether the New Telephone Exchange has since been set up;

(c) whether Government are aware that telephone connections have not been given to these people; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) New Telephone Exchange could not be opened so far at Fatehpur under Dumka Subdivision in Bihar for want of reliable transmission media/connectivity. However, it is planned to instal a new electronic telephone exchange at Fatehpur during 1996-97 and the wait-listed applicants will be provided telephone connections gradually.

Navigation in Coovum river

3153. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering the demand of the people of South to make the Coovum river nagigable; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to draw up a plan for making it nagivable?